

Serial No. 09/931,348
Page 2

REMARKS

In the Office Action of May 12, 2005, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandifer in view of Hoffman; and claims 14-17 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandifer in view of Hoffman and further in view of Carlson.

The Office Action of May 12, 2005, has been carefully considered and by this response, entry of which is respectfully requested, claims 1-17 remain in the application, with no amendments.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 USC §103(a), for the reason that the cited art, taken singularly or in any combination, does not obviate the invention of Applicant.

It is noted in MPEP Section 706 that the standard of patentability to be followed in the examination of a patent application is that which was enunciated by the Supreme Court in Graham v. John Deere, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), where the Court stated:

"Under Section 103, the scope and the content of the prior art are to be determined; differences between the prior art and the claims at issue are to be ascertained; and the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art resolved."

In considering the Sandifer and Hoffman documents cited by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that these documents do not obviate the subject invention. The Sandifer reference discloses aircraft-related documents, not available for public viewing, and the Hoffman reference discloses using MACs for the express

Serial No. 09/931,348
Page 3

purpose of preventing third parties from viewing the content of messages. The use of MACs, such as are disclosed in Hoffman, would not be applied to the Sandifer reference because the documents of Sandifer are not viewable by the public. Hoffman, uses a public-access network, specifically, the Internet, not relevant to Sandifer, making the MACs of Hoffman not relevant to the Sandifer disclosure.

Sandifer does not teach generating a MAC for each digital document, and Hoffman does not teach generating a MAC for the purpose disclosed in the subject application. Consequently, combining the teachings of Sandifer and Hoffman would not result in a system or method which allows elimination of paper-based records, and retention of security and accuracy. Furthermore, neither reference, singularly or combined, discloses encryption such as is disclosed in the subject application. Consequently, even if one were to combine the Sandifer and Hoffman references with the Carlson reference, such a combination would also not result in a system or method such as is disclosed in the subject application. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that independent claims 1, 6 and 12 of the subject application, as well as dependent claims 2-5, 7-11 and 13-17, are not obviated by the cited documents.

In light of the remarks herein, it is respectfully suggested that none of the claims of the subject application are obviated by the cited documents, taken singularly or in combination, since the cited documents fail to disclose the elements of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim, with the purpose defined in the subject application.

Claims 2-5, 7-11, and 13-17 depend from independent claims 1, 6 and 12 to contain all of the

Serial No. 09/931,348
Page 4

limitations found therein. By this dependency, it is submitted that these claims are not anticipated, taught, or rendered obvious by the cited document. Additionally, these claims add further limitations which distinguish them patentably from the cited documents. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of all of the claims of the application is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the undersigned attorney respectfully submits that all of the claims of the application are clearly allowable. Therefore, Applicant's attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn and that a formal Notice of Allowance be issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

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